

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1406

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve presumptive compensation benefits for veterans with ill-defined illnesses resulting from the Persian Gulf War, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2001

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. DOYLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve presumptive compensation benefits for veterans with ill-defined illnesses resulting from the Persian Gulf War, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gulf War Undiagnosed
5 Illness Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF ILL-DEFINED ILLNESSES IN PRE-**
2 **SUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1117 of
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or
5 fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, a chronic multi-
6 symptom illness, or any other ill-defined illness (or com-
7 bination of ill-defined illnesses)” after “illnesses”).

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (c) of
9 such section is amended by inserting “or fibromyalgia,
10 chronic fatigue syndrome, a chronic multisymptom illness,
11 or any other ill-defined illness (or combination of ill-de-
12 fined illnesses)” after “illnesses”).

13 **SEC. 3. COMPENSATION FOR UNDIAGNOSED ILLNESSES TO**
14 **PROVIDE FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH**
15 **PROJECTS.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY TO PROVIDE FOR
17 PARTICIPATION WITHOUT LOSS OF BENEFITS.—Section
18 1117 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
19 ing at the end the following new subsection:

20 “(g)(1) If the Secretary determines with respect to
21 a medical research project sponsored by the Department
22 that it is necessary for the conduct of that project that
23 Persian Gulf veterans in receipt of compensation under
24 this section or section 1118 of this title participate in the
25 project without fear of loss of compensation benefits under
26 either section, the Secretary may provide that medical in-

1 formation derived directly or indirectly from the participa-
2 tion of a Persian Gulf veteran in that research project may
3 not be used in adjudicating that veteran's entitlement to
4 receipt of such compensation.

5 “(2) The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Reg-
6 ister a notice of each determination made by the Secretary
7 under paragraph (1) with respect to a medical research
8 project.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The authority provided by
10 subsection (g) of section 1117 of title 38, United States
11 Code, as added by subsection (a), may be used by the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs with respect to any medical re-
13 search project of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
14 whether commenced before, on, or after the date of the
15 enactment of this Act.

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